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DOCUMENT_ID: 134363120
INQNO: DOC17D 00205640
DOCNO: TEL 035653 90
PRODUCER: PARIS
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19901130
TOR: 143103
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 199011301831
MHFNO: 90 2203951
DOCCLASS: C

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 35653

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PREL, AG, KPAL, FR
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: DEMARCHES ON ALGIERS WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL:
- APPROACH TO THE FRENCH

REF: STATE 404156 (NOTAL)

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. THE QUAI SAYS IT WILL ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS EMBASSY IN ALGIERS TO APPROACH THE GOA URGING THAT IT TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SCHEDULED DECEMBER 10-12 WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FROM TAKING PLACE. THIS SAID, THE QUAI DOES NOT HAVE MUCH HOPE ITS APPROACH WILL PROVE EFFECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

3. ON NOVEMBER 30, PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, WE APPROACHED

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QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR (A/S) FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, JEAN-LUC SIBIUDE, TO URGE A FRENCH APPROACH TO THE ALGERIANS IN AN EFFORT TO FORESTALL THE SO-CALLED "WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL" SLATED TO TAKE PLACE IN ALGIERS DECEMBER 10-12. WE REVIEWED ALL THE POINTS IN PARA FIVE REFTTEL, URGING THAT THE GOF A) EXPRESS ITS DISMAY AT THE PROSPECT OF A SHOW TRIAL IN ALGERIA AIMED AT PRESIDENT BUSH AND U.S. POLICY AND B) INTERVENE WITH THE GOA TO PREVENT THE EVENT FROM TAKING PLACE (WITHIN ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS).

4. DRAWING FROM AFP REPORTS, WE RECALLED THAT FRENCH CITIZENS ROGER GARAUDY (PHILOSOPHER), VINCENT MONTEIL (ISLAMIC SCHOLAR), DANIEL ORTEGA AND SWISS DEPUTY JEAN ZIEGLER WERE ALSO SLATED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIBUNAL, AND THAT THE BAD BOY OF FRENCH JURISTS, JACQUES VERGES (WHO DEFENDED **KLAUS BARBIE**, AMONG OTHERS) WOULD BE A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IN THE TRIAL.

5. PROMISING HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CABLE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY TO INTERVENE ONCE AGAIN WITH THE GOA AGAINST A SHOW TRIAL TAKING PLACE IN ALGERIA, SIBIUDE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- "ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO," THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN ALGIERS HAD EVOKED THE PLANNED SHOW TRIAL WITH GOA OFFICIALS, EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT "THE NEW ALGERIA" WOULD PLAY HOST TO SUCH AN EVENT AND WARNED OF THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT THE TRIAL WOULD HAVE ON ALGERIA'S IMAGE WORLDWIDE.

-- THE FRENCH HAD STRESSED "THE ONLY VALID ARGUMENT TO BE USED WITH THE ALGERIANS": TO WIT, THE ONE REGARDING EVENTUAL DAMAGE TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION SHOULD THE TRIBUNAL TAKE PLACE ON ALGERIAN SOIL. (COMMENT: SIBIUDE BELIEVES THE ALGERIANS WOULD BE FAR MORE SENSITIVE TO THIS LINE OF REASONING THAN ANY SIMPLE APPEAL TO THE GOA TO UNDERTAKE OFFICIAL MEASURES PREVENTING THE EVENT.)

-- THE GOA OFFICIAL, SAYING HE WAS "NO STRANGER" TO THE ILL EFFECTS THE TRIAL COULD HAVE ON ALGERIA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, "STRONGLY PREFERRED THAT SUCH AN EVENT NOT TAKE PLACE ON ALGERIAN SOIL."

-- THE OFFICIAL STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER THE "CURRENT DEMOCRATIC ALGERIAN REGIME," IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FORBID OFFICIALLY SUCH AN UNDERTAKING.

-- THIS OPEN-ENDED CONVERSATION HAS LEFT THE GOF WITH THE IMPRESSION THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT/NOT PREPARED TO STEP IN VIGOROUSLY TO FORESTALL THE TRIBUNAL.

6. SIBIUDE STRESSED THAT IN THE QUAI'S OPINION, THE GOA WILL NOT DO MUCH TO PREVENT THE TRIBUNAL, MAINLY BECAUSE PUBLIC OPINION IN ALGERIA IS "STRONGLY SYMPATHETIC" TO THE CONCLUSIONS THE TRIBUNAL WILL

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INEVITABLY REACH AND THE ULTIMATE VERDICT IT WILL PRODUCE. SIBIUDE LAMENTED THIS TURN OF EVENTS, CALING THE WHOLE THING "GROTESQUE AND ABSURD."

7. WE POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO AFP REPORTS, THE ALGERIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, ALI AMMAR LAOUER, HAD ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON 30 NOVEMBER NOTING THAT "THE TRUE INSTIGATORS OF THIS EVENT ARE NOT CLEAR AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DEMARCHE UNDERTAKEN ARE CONFUSING AND EQUIVOCAL." SIBIUDE REITERATED THAT DESPITE SUCH UTTERANCES, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE GOA WOULD TAKE ANY VIGOROUS STEPS. HE AGAIN PROMISED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN ALGIERS AND THAT THE FRENCH APPROACH TO THE ALGERIANS WOULD BE MADE "WITH NO MENTION OF THE AMERICANS HAVING PREVIOUSLY SPOKEN TO US."

CURLEY

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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